

Remarks

The Applicants would like to thank Examiner Hammond for her numerous telephone communications with Applicants' representative, Jason D. Eisenberg, Esq., regarding proposed amendments to the claims. The Examiner is also thanked for indicating on December 4, 2002, that the proposed amendments would overcome the cited patents.

This Amendment and Reply should be entered after Final Rejection because it places the claims in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 10, 14, and 15 are sought to be amended. Claims 13 and 16 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-12 and 14-15 are pending in the application, with 1 and 10 being the independent claims. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Drawing Objections

The Examiner has objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) as not showing indicators in the shape of a dimple, a ridge, and a lug, as found in originally filed claim 5. ~~FIGS.~~ 7-9 have been added to show these indicators, and the specification has been amended accordingly. Support for these figures and the amendments is found at least in original claim 5, the abstract, and paragraphs 9, 33, and 35. Hence, no new matter has been added. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to approve the new figures and withdraw the objection to the drawings.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claim 13 (although claim 3 was indicated in the Final Office Action, the objected to language is only found in claim 13), which has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the objection.

Rejections under 35 USC 102 and 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2 and 6-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 4,702,537 to Mattingly *et al* (Mattingly). The Examiner has also rejected claims 3-5 and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mattingly in view of U.S. Pat. No. 4,037,909 to Trompeter. The Examiner has further rejected claims 10-12 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mattingly in view of Trompeter and in further view of U.S. Pat. No. 3,609,632 to Vetter. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections and request that they be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Amended independent claims 1 and 10 recite at least an indicator located on a peripheral edge of a sleeve that is visible from a back of a plug side connector. None of the cited patents, either alone or in obvious combination, teach at least an indicator located on a peripheral edge of a sleeve that is visible from a back of a plug side connector. This was agreed to by the Examiner during a telephonic interview on December 4, 2002. Thus, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections. Also, all claims that depend from these independent claims should be allowable over the cited patents for at least the same reasons.

Conclusion

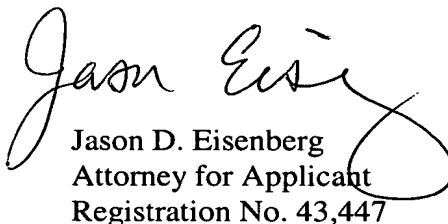
All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided to schedule a telephonic or personal interview.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Version with markings to show changes made

In the Specification

The following paragraph was added after pending paragraph [0017].

FIGS. 7, 8, and 9 are perspective views of a bayonet sleeve of a plug-side connector illustrating additional embodiments of the indicator of the invention.

Pending paragraph [0033] has been replaced with the following paragraph [0033].

In a preferred embodiment, indicator 124 is a V-shaped notch, as shown in FIG. 4. In alternate embodiments, indicator 124 may be a dimple 700 (FIG. 7) on sleeve 108, or may be any other shape, size, or configuration, as would be known to one skilled in the relevant art. However, an advantage of the V-shaped notch is that it is easily visible from the back of plug-side connector 102. That is, referring back to FIG. 1, when plug-side connector 102 is connected to a jack-side connector 104, the V-shaped notch is clearly visible when looking toward plug-side connector 102 from a point on axis 114 to the right of plug-side connector 102. This view point is referred to herein as looking from the "back" of plug-side connector 102.

Pending paragraph [0035] has been replaced with the following paragraph [0035].

In yet another embodiment, indicator 124 may be a ridge 800 (FIG. 8) or lug 900 (FIG. 9) formed on sleeve 108. An advantage of a raised ridge or lug is that it would be easily visible from the back of plug-side connector 102. A raised ridge or lug may have the additional advantage of improving a user's grip for rotating sleeve 108 during connection and disconnection of mating connector pair 100.

In the Drawings

New FIGS. 7-9 have been added.

In the claims

1. (Amended) A plug-side connector configured for engagement with a jack-side connector to form an electrical connection, comprising:

- a plug-side connector body;
- a bayonet sleeve rotatably connected to said connector body, said sleeve having two slots therein for engagement with corresponding lugs on a jack-side connector; and
- a first indicator located on a peripheral edge [on] of said sleeve, said indicator being [configured to] visible from a back of said plug side connector and aligned [align] with a reference point when said slots in said sleeve are fully engaged with the lugs of a jack-side connector to provide a visual indication that the plug-side connector is fully engaged with the jack-side connector.

10. (Amended) A mating connector pair comprising:

- (a) a jack-side connector comprising
 - a jack-side connector body having two lugs disposed on a peripheral surface thereof, said lugs being positioned on said jack-side connector body approximately one hundred eighty degrees apart from one another,
 - a jack-side conductor disposed within a lumen of said jack-side connector body, and
 - a jack-side connector insulator electrically isolating said jack-side conductor from said jack-side connector body; and
- (b) a plug-side connector comprising
 - a plug-side connector body configured for mating with said jack-side connector body,
 - a plug-side conductor disposed within a lumen of said plug-side connector body, said plug-side conductor being configured for mating with said jack-side conductor of said jack-side connector,
 - a plug-side connector insulator electrically isolating said plug-side conductor from said plug-side connector body,
 - a bayonet sleeve rotatably connected to said plug-side connector body, said sleeve having two J-shaped slots therein, each slot being configured and arranged for engagement with a corresponding one of said lugs of said jack-side connector body when said jack-side connector is mated with said plug-side connector, and
 - two indicators located on a peripheral edge [on] of said sleeve, each indicator being visible from a back of said plug side connector and aligning with a terminal portion of a corresponding one of said slots to provide a visual indication of full mating of said connector when said slots in said sleeve are fully engaged with said lugs of said jack-side connector body.

14. (Amended) The plug-side connector of claim 4, wherein [each of] said second indicator[s] is positioned on said sleeve such that [at least one of said indicators] it is visible from the back of the plug-side connector.

15. (Amended) The plug-side connector of claim 5, wherein [each of] said second indicator[s] is positioned on said sleeve such that [at least one of said indicators] it is visible from the back of the plug-side connector.

Claims 13 and 16 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.